

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the following paragraphs according in the following manner.

[0013] More particularly and as shown in FIG. 1, two or more users in the set of users **102** may communicate via network **104** and in embodiments contact a message server **106** to exchange typed, voice or other messaging, for example in a mutually viewed chat panel or other realtime or near-realtime channel. The communication may be carried out on various ports or other interfaces, for instance using transfer control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP), session initiation protocol (SIP), session initiation protocol for instant messaging and presence logical extensions (SIMPLE) or other protocols or resources. According to the invention in one regard, the participating users in the set of users **102** may furthermore share, view and otherwise manipulate a set of shared images **112**, such as digital photographs in joint photographic experts group (JPG) or other format.

[0018] As shown in FIG. 3, after the set of shared images **112** has been sent to the one or more other participating users, the sending user as well as the other participating user or users may then automatically be presented with a rendition of the set of shared images **112** on viewer **118**. As illustrated viewer **118** may be or include a slideshow tool, but it will be appreciated that other types or configurations of viewer **118** may be used. The user currently retaining control over the mutually displayed set of shared images **112** on the viewer **118** of participating users may select, play, stop or otherwise manipulate the presentation of the set of shared images **112**, using slider and other controls. In embodiments, the user in current control may manipulate remote interface elements on the viewer **118** of the remaining participants, for instance to move a pointer over images, attach notes, stickies or other annotations to images or other media objects,

play or insert voice notes or otherwise mark or manipulate the presented set of shared images ~~media-objects~~ **112**. In embodiments, participating viewers may view, download or print the set of shared images **112** presented on their respective machines. In other embodiments, access or editing rights to the set of shared images **112** may be limited to the user retaining control. Other levels or divisions of access rights to the set of shared images **112** are possible.

[0020] In embodiments, particularly involving a group of more than two participants, one or more users may choose an option to “follow” another selected user, that is to view whatever set of shared ~~media-objects~~ images **112** that other user is actively viewing. In embodiments in which more than two users are actively participating, two or more users may in implementations select an option to remain synchronized with each other, constantly viewing the same set of shared ~~media-objects~~ images **112**, independently of selections by other participating users. In further embodiments, one or more users may choose to “wander” or disengage from the current set of shared ~~media-objects~~ images **112** mutually viewed by participants, in which case that user may elect to reenter the messaging session at a later point. In embodiments involving a group of more than two participants, more than one control object **110** may be distributed to the set of users **102**, a common control channel may be established in the background, or other control and arbitration mechanisms may be used. In such embodiments the exact set of shared ~~media-objects~~ images **112** currently loaded or viewed in each viewer **118** may be tracked to maintain consistency. Other viewing and control combinations are possible.